

AMENDMENTS**In the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 29 as follows:

--A feature of the subject invention which allows for long term storage without deterioration of the reagents present in the filtering device 28, or the matrix material 24, is a moisture absorbing chemical 41 situated in the chamber 18. Such chemicals prevent moisture from contacting the reagents and causing a loss in activity. The moisture absorbing chemical 41 is provided for ease of illustration and represents but one embodiment. Alternative configurations are contemplated. A variety of chemicals well known to those skilled in the art are useful for this purpose. It should be apparent that the effectiveness of the present invention is not absolutely reliant on a device having a chamber 18 for holding moisture absorbing chemicals. A single chamber will perform adequately provided the chemicals are otherwise associated with it, for example by disposing them on the outside.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 14 as follows:

--A second feature of the subject invention alluded to above, that is important in establishing the long term room temperature stability of the diagnostic device, is the utilization of a suitable chemical drying agent 41 situated in chamber 18 in the bottom section 14. The stability, or useful lifetime, of the materials in the matrix material 24, or the filter material 36, is a function of the humidity encountered by the device. Presently used immunodiagnostic devices have a useful shelf time of less than 6 months at room temperature, whereas the present device has a room temperature shelf time of up to one year. We have found that by associating a drying agent with the diagnostic device that the reagents remain stable and give outstanding performance over this time. A variety of drying agents are well known in the art, and are anticipated to be useful.--